

Andrew Jackson to John Coffee, December 23, 1813, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

TO JOHN COFFEE.

Fort Strother, December 23, 1813.

D'r Genl: I have this evening recd yours of the 20th. instant, and send you inclosed the Governors letter¹ with my permission to the Regt. of Volunteer Cavalry, to return under the sanction of the governors letter, with all the benefits it holds out to them. If after the solemn pledge under their hands, to return, and complete the campaign, if I would permit them to return, obtain fresh horses and a supply of cloathing, *they can forfeight all, disgrace themselves* and Tarnish the reputation they have acquired, and perhaps forfeight their pay, in the name of god let them go. I have no power to discharge them, the governor says he has none, of course all you can do for them is to Join your permission with mine to all that wish to go home under such circumstances, and all that will stay, either volunteer cavalry or Infantry have them organised into companies or Batalions as their force will permit, and send

1 Blount to Jackson, Dec. 15, 1813.

them on as soon as supplies of bread stuff, reaches Fort Deposit, which I hope will be against this reaches you. from dispatches this evening recd from Genl Pinckney it is necessary I should move forward quikly, to form a Junction with the Georgia Troop at the Junction of the river and I must hazard all responsibility, to make a movement with what Provisions I have, if more supplies of breadstuff does not reach me shortly. He sends me on the official account of the Battle fought by Genl Floyd with the creeks 20 miles above the Junction on the east side of Tallaposa, in which Genl Floyd defeated the

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Indian and supposes the[y] killed two hundred of them. The whole force of the indians are concentrated at the hickory ground, and the large Fish trap on the cosa, and you may assure your brave vollunteers, if they want to fight all they have to do is to come and cross the Cosa with me and I will in five days after insure them a fight. You may assure Captain Hammonds rangers, if the[y] do not come on I shall write to the secratary of war to have them dismissed from service, and all those who do not obay the order punished as mutineers.

I have wrote Colo Carrol, and hope it will meet him at Huntsville, and that the supplies will authorise him to move up immediately. I must be in motion or all our reputation and that of the state will be at stake. I am happy to hear of your recovering health and hope you will be with me in a few days I hope there will be as many mounted men as will keep up your Brigade, and I hope your health will permit you to command it.

I have recd an express from Nashville advising, that a large British force is before Pensacola *dispatch is necessary* . The large supplies of corn on the allabama, when we reach it, will supply our horses amply, and the Possession of the Indian country, before the British can form a Junction with and afford them supplies will prevent a great deal of fighting. When I see you, I will open my mind to you on this subject. I am respectfully yrs
etc etc

It is late. No copy is kept. Preserve the original.